

I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 670. As a two-time retiree from the state of Maryland I first retired from the Maryland State Police after over twenty-seven years of service. Part of my time with the Maryland State Police was spent here in Annapolis as the Sergeant at Arms for the Maryland House of Delegates with Speaker Casper R. Taylor. Following my retirement from the Maryland State Police I served with the Department of Corrections as both an Assistant Warden and Warden for nearly fourteen years before retiring from Western Correctional Institution.

At issue is a change to the benefits for Maryland state retirees who receive state-subsidized prescription drug coverage. I am currently 66 years old and would be among those who will lose our prescription coverage effective December 31, 2024 and be forced to enroll in Medicare Part D. At the time I was hired my benefits were guaranteed through my retirement.

I am a member of the Maryland Troopers Association, State Police Alumni Association, Maryland State Police Mountain Lodge 40 and the Maryland Representative to the American Association of State Troopers.

During my career with the Maryland State Police I paid solely into Maryland State Police Retirement. I was not given an option to pay into Social Security. I began receiving Social Security several years ago from the Social Security I paid while working for the Maryland Department of Corrections. I receive 50% of the Social Security I am entitled to because of the Windfall Elimination Act. From that 50% I now pay for Medicare Part B and with a yet to be determined Pharmaceutical Part D cost this will again cut the amount of Social Security I receive each month. Both my wife and I receive Social Security so she will also pay for Medicare Part D from her check. This is a tremendous hardship financially on my family. Because Troopers of my generation did not pay Social Security this will also impact my Maryland State Police brothers and sisters as well.

I am asking you to live up to the commitment that was made to Maryland state retirees and vote favorably on House Bill 670.

Sincerely,  
Richard J. Graham (Sergeant Retired MSP)  
Warden (Western Correctional Institution Retired)